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Message Text

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72 (12)
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 T-03 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /153 W
---------- 033592
R 071550 Z MAR 73 ZEL
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2334
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION USUN NY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - PARA 5 LINE 19

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PINS, RW
SUBJ: ETHNIC TROUBLES

REF: KIGALI 0129

1. SUMMARY. SITUATION THROUGHOUT COUNTRY CONTINUES TO RETURN TO NORMAL. VIOLENCE HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED THROUGH TENSION REMAINS IN CERTAIN AREAS. BEST ESTIMATES AVAILABLE ARE THAT AROUND 150 PEOPLE DIED IN RECENT VIOLENCE. THERE ARE ABOUT 5-6000 INTERNAL REFUGEES BUT THAT MANY OF THEM WILL REOCCUPY THEIR LAND. MINISTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, IN CONTRAST EARLIER " HARDLINE" ATTITUDE AGAINST TUTSIS, EXPRESSED TO ME CONCILIATORY SENTIMENTS TOWARD THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR INFORMED ME MARCH 7 HIS ESTIMATE IS THAT AROUND 150 PERSONS DIED IN RECENT VIOLENCE OF WHOM SOME 20 OR 30 DROWNED. HIS ESTIMATE (THIS CONFIRMED BY

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OTHER SOURCES) IS THAT THERE ARE 5-6000 REFUGEES IN VARIOUS MISSIONS BUT THAT MOST OF THESE PLANNING TO RETURN HOME IN COMING DAYS AND WEEKS. EMBASSY PERSONNEL MARCH 6 AT CATHOLIC MISSION ON WAY TO GITARAMA WITNESSED NUMBER OF BURGOMASTERS ADDRESSING SEVERAL HUNDRED TUTSI REFUGEES, URGING THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR LANDS AND GIVING THEM ASSURANCES OF SAFETY. BELGIAN ESTIMATE WAS THAT " SYSTEMATIC" HUT BURNINGS HAD OCCURRED IN ABOUT 1/4 OF COUNTRY' S 160 COMMUNES, BUT HARDLY AT ALL IN REST OF COUNTRY.

3. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR FURTHER ESTIMATED THAT 1000 TUTSI STUDENTS HAD LEFT HIGH SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITY AND ABOUT 100 TUTSI TEACHERS HAD ALSO LEFT SCHOOLS. MOST OF EUROPEAN TEACHERS PLANNING TO LEAVE KIGALI' S COLLEGE OFFICIEL, WHICH WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR FURTHER GAVE PERSONAL ESTIMATE THAT SOME 1000 SKILLEE TUTSIS HAD LEFT JOBS WITHIN COUNTRY. MEANWHILE LARGE NUMBER OF HUTUS, SO MANY ALAS UNSKILLED, ARE LINING UP TO SEEK JOBS THAT HAVE BEEN VACATED. BELGIANS HAD NO GOOD INFORMATION NUMBER OF TUTSIS WHO HAVE LEFT RWANDA. WE NOTE BBC REPORTED MARCH 6 THAT 600 TUTSIS HAD SOUGHT REFUGE IN UGANDA AND THERE ARE VARIOUS REPORTS OF OTHER TUTSIS ENTERING ZAIRE AND BURUNDI. IT IS NOTEWORTHY AND IRONIC

THAT VIRTUALLY NO REPEAT NO TUTSIS HAVE BEEN CHASED FROM GOVERNMENT JOBS.

4. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD ABOUT 100 PERSONS HAD BEEN JAILED BY AUTHORITIES FOR FOMENTING OR PARTICIPATING RECENT VIOLENCE.

5. I SAW MINISTER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MUNYANEZA MARCH 7 TO GET HIS ESTIMATE SITUATION AND ALSO TO INFORM HIM EMBASSY INTENDED TO RESPOND TO CRS REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR TUTSI REFUGEES. MINISTER, IN CHEERFUL MOOD, SAID HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM PRESIDENTIAL MISSION TO BUTARE, WHICH HAD KEPT HIM THERE FIVE DAYS. HE EXPLAINED MINISTERS HAD ALL BEEN DESPATCHED TO VARIOUS PREFECTURES TO CALM PASSIONS AND WHERE NECESSARY RESTORE ORDER. IN MANIFEST UNDERSTATEMENT HE CLAIMED ONLY A DOZEN OR SO HAD LOST THEIR LIVES. HE REPORTED THEQRE

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HAD BEEN NO HUT BURNINGS IN BUTARE AND SAID NATIONAL UNIVERSITY WAS AGAIN FUNCTIONING WITH SOME 332 STUDENTS (COMPARED STUDENT BODY OF SLIGHTLY OVER 500 BEFORE RECENT TROUBLES). CONTRARY HIS EARLIER " HARDLINE" AGAINST TUTSIS, HE SPOKE IN CONCILIATORY FASHION ABOUT THEM. I EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THAT VIOLENT PHASE OF STRUGGLE SEEMED ENDED AND SPOKE OF " BLACK EYE" THIS KIND OF THIGH GAVE RWANDA ABROAD. HE BLAMED FALSE REPORTS FROM BURUNDI. I WONDERED WHETHER GOR HAD CONSIDERED SOME KIND OF STATEMENT DIRECTED TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION AND TO PUT EVENTS INTO PERSPECTIVE. HE SAID HE WOULD SPEAK TO PRESIDENT KAYIBANDA ABOUT THIS. I PROFFERED ADVICE THAT ANY SUCH STATEMENT SHOULD NOT TRY TO HIDE WHAT HAPPENED AND SHOULD STRESS GOR DETERMINATION PURSUE POLICY CONCORD AMONG ALL CITIZENS.

6. IN SUME IT APPEARS MEASURE OF CALM HAS BEEN RESTORED BUT, AS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL, RWANDA LIKELY TO CONTINUE EXPERIENCING UNREST FOR SOME TIME TO COME.
CORRIGAN

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